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(*b*) whether, and if so, what public interests are involved in the transfers referred to in clause (*a*)?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" (*a*) & (*b*) There is no statutory rule that District Medical Officers should not be transferred from one station to another before completion of three years service in the former station. But in practice, District Medical Officers are not transferred before completion of three years' service in a station, except for important administrative reason or on public grounds. Very few transfers of District Medical Officers were ordered in recent months. The grounds for transfer being confidential, cannot be divulged."

Port and Marine funds.

* 3 *Q.*—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether Port and Marine funds are constituted in the Province, and, if so, what the amounts to their credit at the end of 1947–48 were;

(*b*) what the methods for augmenting these funds are;

(*c*) what the purposes for which these funds have been constituted are;

(*d*) whether at any time amounts have been drawn from these funds for carrying out the purposes mentioned in answer to (*c*);

(*e*) what the expenditure has been for various purposes;

(*f*) whether the Government have under consideration a scheme for the development of minor ports;

(*g*) whether grants for purposes other than those for which the funds are constituted are permissible;

(*h*) whether it is a fact that the Government have made a grant or sanctioned a loan to a shipping company for the purchase of a steamer;

(*i*) what the conditions governing such grants or loans are;

(*j*) whether the procedure prescribed under the State-aid to Industries Act was followed before making the grant or loan; and

(*k*) whether the Government will place on the table of the House the conditions governing the grant or loan?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) *to* (*k*) Attention is invited to the paper [a] placed on the table of the House."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know whether giving loans out of the Minor Ports Fund is one of the objects of the Fund? "

[a] Printed as Appendix I on pages 273–278 infra.

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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The loan has been sanctioned in the interests of the development of the Port."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Will the plying of a lonely steamer between Colombo and Tuticorin likely to develop the port?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Without that there will be no service between Colombo and Tuticorin and thus the Post will certainly deteriorate."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, whether other applications were invited before this loan was considered favourably?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The Government did not invite any applications to start the service; there was an applicant who wanted it and without that aid, he would not be able to start the service and therefore, the Government decided to give the loan."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, under what provisions of the law this loan was given?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" There is no law against the grant of this loan."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Was shipping treated as an industry before the loan was granted?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The loan was not granted under the State Aid to Industries Act."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know, whether all the rules framed under the State Aid to Industries Act were observed in the matter of the grant of the loan to the Company?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I said that the loan was not granted under the State Aid to Industries Act, because the Government did not consider this as from the point of view of aid to industry."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" Under what statutory provision of the law was this loan granted?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" We have been making grants from the Fund for aiding dispensaries, for coffee houses and so on. This is a loan for aiding a service but for which, there could not have been any between this Port and Colombo."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" How can the Government grant such loans without any statutory authority?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The Government can grant such loans; there is nothing preventing the Government from sanctioning the loans."

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SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Are there any cases of the grant of loans similar to the one that has been given by the Government without reference to any statutory authority? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Even out of the Port Fund, we have granted loans to certain other funds, but I would like to have notice for particulars in this behalf."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Would it not have been better in public interests if the application received from this company had been published and objections if any invited and then to give the loan? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The Government did not consider that public interests would have in any way suffered by adopting the procedure they have followed."

JANAB ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI :—" Would it not have been better to publish such applications before granting the loan? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" This was a special case and the Government did not consider it necessary to publish applications."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Is this a public or a private company, Sir? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" It is a public company."

Subsidy for new wells in the West Godavari district.

* 4 *Q.*—M. NARAYANA RAO :—Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) the amount of subsidy to be given for digging new wells under the Grow More Food Campaign in the West Godavari district in the year 1949–50;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that rich and influential ryots are given subsidies and the poor and needy ryot is neglected; and

(*c*) whether there is any principle in the matter of distribution?

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" (*a*) A sum of Rs. 1,75,000 has been allotted to the West Godavari district for payment of well subsidy loans during 1949–50.

" (*b*) The Government have no reason to think that the position is as stated by the hon. Member.

" (*c*) The following are the main considerations which the grant of subsidies under the New Wells Subsidy Scheme 1949–50 :—

(1) As the amount of subsidy is advanced as a loan under the Land Improvement Loans Act in the first instance, only such ryots as can furnish sufficient security for the loan will be granted the subsidy.

(2) Preference will be given to applications for sinking wells in wet lands. Two-thirds of the amounts earmarked for